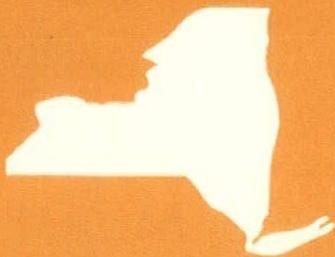


Empire State

ARCHITECT



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

VOLUME 11

1942

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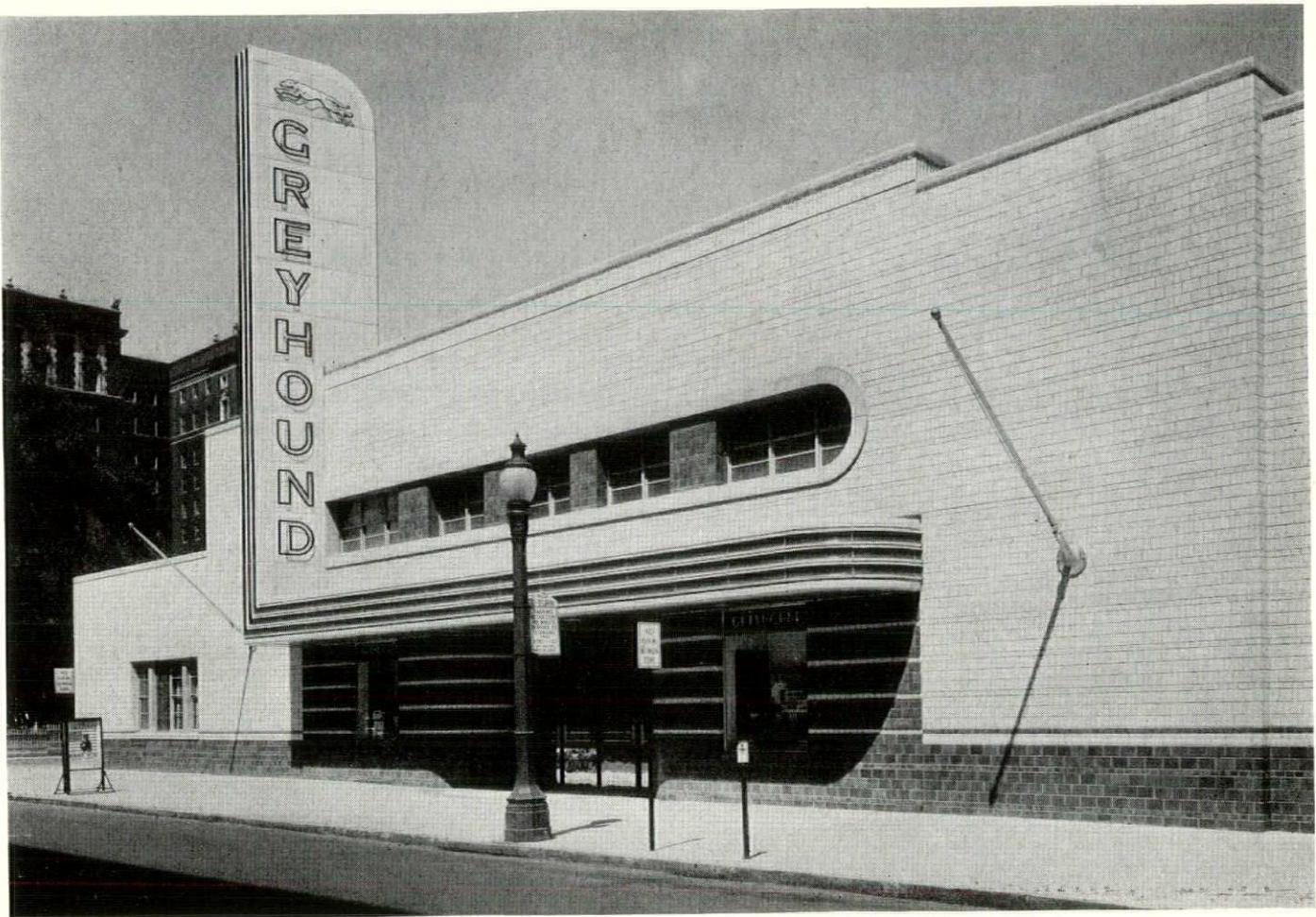
ALL ARCHITECTS

WASHINGTON NEWS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

NATIONAL GYPSUM BUILDING

THE ARCHITECT IN PUBLIC WORK



GREYHOUND BUS TERMINAL Syracuse, N. Y.

General Contractor — Dawson Brothers Construction Company, Syracuse, N. Y.

Architects — Wischmeyer, Arrasmith & Elswick, Louisville, Ky.; M. L. & H. A. King, Syracuse, N. Y.

RED BRICK and MODERN DESIGN

Two sizes of Binghamton red building brick—standard and double—were used in the exterior walls of this building. The brick formed a structural part of the wall and an interesting bond results from the use of three courses of the double brick as stretchers with the standard size brick headers used in the tie course. The horizontal lines are accentuated by this bond.

A Ceramic Glaze of limestone color and texture has been burned into the face of the light colored brick while a Ceramic Glaze resembling polished granite has been used in the dark colored brick. Ceramic Glazes of many colors and textures for exterior use have been successfully developed at Binghamton.

Other Greyhound Terminals built of Binghamton Ceramic Glazed brick are located in Buffalo, Cincinnati, Norfolk, Washington, Baltimore, Providence and Binghamton.

In the background may be seen the stately Hotel Syracuse on which 1,000,000 Binghamton Full Range Red Matt Texture Face brick were used in 1922.

BINGHAMTON BRICK CO., INC., Binghamton, N. Y.

JOHN H. BLACK CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

THE BELDEN-STARK BRICK CORPN., New York City

AMERICAN HARD WALL PLASTER CO., Utica, N. Y.

JOSEPH L. WECKESSER, Rochester, N. Y.

All Architects

Are Cordially Invited to Attend

Two Open Meetings

of the

Board of Directors

New York State Association of Architects

Friday, October 30th, 8 p.m.

Architectural League, 115 East 40th St.

*Lorimer Rich, Maxwell A. Cantor, and Sidney Strauss are the committee
on arrangements. One speaker of International note. Refreshments.*

Saturday, October 31st, 10 a.m.

Architectural League, 115 East 40th St.

Fall Meeting of the Board

These are opportunities for every member to present his suggestions for improving the New York State Association.

Remember! No Convention This Year!

September 26, 1942.

Empire State Architect

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

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Address all communications regarding the State Association to the Secretary, John T. Briggs, 101 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y., all editorial comments to Empire State Architect c/o the Editorial Board, 293 Summer Street, Buffalo, N. Y., and inquiries regarding advertising to the Publisher.

Publisher — Julian L. Kahle, 232 Anderson Place, Buffalo, New York.

To each Regional Director and the President of each Chapter and each State Association Member:

Your new representative is now installed, since September 14. We have, so far, little new information, but believe you will be interested in the first impressions received from our first contacts and from the material awaiting our attention. We hope that these impressions may not seem unduly pessimistic; we think you want the truth of the Washington picture as we see it.

Some of the following seems to us to have a very vital bearing on the future prospects of architects. It is a pity that the budget of this office does not permit it to be broadcast to all architects and we beg you to use every possible means of getting it into the hands of those in your district. The information in THE OCTAGON is, of necessity, somewhat less fresh than these bulletins and considerably more compressed.

1. Projects

It must be obvious that scarcity of critical materials will progressively reduce prospective projects to the absolute minimum required by the war. The Bureau of Yards and Docks and the Federal Public Housing Authority seem to hold out some hope of further work. Many such jobs may involve little more than site planning and supervision; no real architecture. The practice of architecture in the old sense is practically "out" for the duration. Applicants should emphasize capacity and experience in executive coordination, supervision and expediting of construction, etc.; "architect-engineer" capacities appear to be given preferential consideration.

2. Personal Employment

The general picture seems to indicate that there are going to be many architects looking for jobs or commissions in the very near future. Jobs are scarce; jobs as architects are scarcer. In the younger brackets only men with architectural engineering degrees are wanted for jobs or commissions involving construction work and these are mostly for overseas. Applicants should emphasize that the architect's education is a broad one, that their experience develops very varied executive capacities and adaptabilities; soft-pedal the "artistic" side.

This office is attempting to "sell" the idea that there are many positions not directly related to architecture or construction which can be filled by architects with a minimum of special training, thus relieving trained officers or specialists for combat or specialists' duties. This field is almost unlimited and we will welcome your suggestions and information of anyone whom you may know who may be in a position to be helpful to us in our efforts.

Continued on Page 13

MOVING?

Please advise the publisher of the E. S. A., 232 Anderson Pl., Buffalo, N. Y. at once of any change in address.

You will receive the E. S. A. promptly and you will save your association the cost of return postage.

THE EDITOR.

THE ARCHITECT IN PUBLIC WORK . . . by George A. Boehm

This article was presented at the State Associations meeting of the
A. I. A. Convention at Detroit on Monday, June 22, 1942.
(Reprinted from the Blue Print, Sept. 1942)

In the planning of the greater part of his work, the Architect has been largely guided by the needs of those who have made their livelihood as dealers in land or as landlords. Those employers have set the pace and it has been followed, for various reasons, even by those users of land and builders who were in neither of the above business activities.

The natural consequence of that process is now to be seen, all over the land, in the inevitable meanness of the habitations which congest large sections of it.

Where the over-riding guiding motive is the making of a profit, and that motive is not sufficiently checked by restraints placed on it by either the mores of the public or by laws of government, it is futile to expect a result which provides for a generous life. Competition, and so far as concerns the real estate field, ever increasing costs of land construction, results in the constant further compacting of the product, so that the rooms in the house, workshop and office are reduced to minimum terms, as is also the space surrounding the structures. The great and prosperous railroads with terminals in New York City apparently could not afford any other open land around them, except the city streets.

The Architect, who, under the present procedure, is necessary in a subservient position, has not only been unable to check the mean development of our communities, but, because of his concentration on getting out the dictated work has not even taken the opportunity to inform himself as to the requirements necessary for the better well being of the populace as a whole. He has spent his working time in his office, on his work, perhaps some time at a club so as to get more work, and perhaps from time to time at functions of such organizations as the Lions or Elks or other similar organizations, also largely for the purpose of getting more work.

His leisure time he has spent mainly on innocent pastimes, for which he is not to be severely criticised.

He has spent practically no time acquainting himself with what the proper requirements of the populace are, if we omit such scant hints as he might get from the general run of newspapers and magazines.

His professional publications also do not assist him greatly. They are designed primarily to help him with technical factors directly related to his calling, and with practically no stress given to the more general living problems.

Today he is reaping the reward of this one-sided deportment. Although by training his is the one profession which should best know what people need to be sheltered properly for their living, working and playing, he has permitted a host of unrelated non-architect experts to take over the guidance for fixing the requirements for these various activities,



such as city planners, site planners, social workers, etc., none of whom have the over-all concept which should be gotten from the properly advised Architect.

To be the properly advised Architect, and to be recognized as being so, requires a certain but significant re-orientation of activities.

To be competent for this status the Architect must enter into the active considerations of all kinds of organizations which concern themselves with the broad aspects of the well being of the populace as a whole. He must find the time, and much of it may have to be taken from his so-called leisure hours, to enter into the active work of civic, welfare and kindred organizations, and into that of boards or commissions created by governmental bodies to examine into and regulate the activities which concern the general well being. Of course it is not intended to suggest that one man enter into all of the miscellaneous subjects involved. But he can pick that or those nearest to him and for which he can develop an earnest and honest interest. It is surprising how much he will find he can do if he can cast off the inertia which clings so tightly.

Naturally, if he enter into a particular governmental service, even if unpaid, such for instance as membership in a housing authority, he may bar himself from undertaking a project developed by that service, but there will be other work, even of a public nature, from which he is not barred. And what can take him out of his present depressed and unnatural status more surely than the public knowledge that he is an understanding man, one who is well acquainted with its problems and who has the courage to urge their proper solution, and the ability to help carry it out.

A member of one of our architectural societies recently returned from a comprehensive South American trip, and rendered a most interesting report. Those of you who live in or near New York City may have heard it. Its highlights are worth repeating here.

He found in many of the South American countries the Architect's status quite different than here. There, as a rule, the Architect takes a prominent part in governmental and other civic work. He is deeply interested in it and is recognized as particularly qualified. The recognition of his qualification is helped by the fact that his education is obtained in institutions maintained by the government, where matters of public concern are considered and actively taught. The outstanding example of this recognition is that in one of the countries the President of the Republic, the Mayor of its capital, the Ministers of Education, of Public Works and War, were recently all members of the Architectural profession.

A recasting of activities as herein suggested would go far to make for a better life for the profession. It might even lead to its complete emancipation, so that, in the end, the Architect may no longer find himself wearing the livery of a section of the populace which dominates him, but be a freeman among his equals.

Committee Reports

CIVILIAN PROTECTION

National

*Circular No. 6: To Regional Representatives and Contacts,
AIA Committee on Civilian Protection.*

1. You may recall that in our annual report, which was favorably received by the head of Civilian Defense, OCD was urged to take over active leadership of professional organization-for-service. An outgrowth of this proposal has been the convening of representatives of the professions and general agreement on nationwide organization of a technical advisory service.

Advice has now gone forth from OCD to all Regional and State Coordinators and Local Defense Committees, calling for the setting up of (a) Technical Committees to advise on general problems related to defense; and (b) Technical Intelligence Units to act as front line observers and reporters on the effects of bombings—wherever they may occur. Local architects, engineers, builders and their national professional organizations are definitely brought into the picture in OCD Operations Letter No. 66, dated August 15, of which a copy has been sent to you direct from OCD. (If you haven't received it,—a duplicate will be sent on request.) The main purpose of this circular is to warn you to anticipate these developments and to prepare your local group for active and effective leadership. It must be noted that appointments are *not* to be made on the basis of organization representation. Key men, specially qualified for special work, are to be picked with the advice of local technical groups.

2. The OCD "Central Technical Board" is being expanded to study technical problems relating to defense, analyzing foreign experience and experiments and testing their application to our needs. This Board will draw on the technical knowledge and experience of the various professional groups as well as on the facilities of various public and private testing laboratories. It is hoped that its technical digests will enable men in the field to keep abreast of current developments, such as the changed procedure for dealing with incendiaries. This work will be under the direction of Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, 3rd, (who has recently been named by the President as Chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and is aware of the Institute's past contribution to the Commission's inauguration). Your Chairman has been asked to serve with this Board in a capacity which may or may not preclude continuance in the Institute Committee chairmanship, but will make possible better working contacts for the professions.

3. Prior to the Institute Convention, Contacts and Representatives were paged for an accounting of accomplishments in their respective bailiwicks. To this date, comparatively few have replied and it is necessary to repeat the request. Will you please take time out to report on your status quo so that we may find out where functioning has ceased due to military engagements, the struggle for survival or innocuous desuetude — and where the Institute is ready to play its full part in the opportunity now afforded to help safeguard our communities. To this end. . . .

Contacts are requested to advise on the following points:

What use has been made of the material sent you?

—Have you primed yourself sufficiently to advise in an emergency on safe shelter zones, protective construction, or demolition, blackout?

—Have you found others who have been willing to work with you and inform themselves?

Has any working nucleus been formed of architects and/or engineers which is ready and able to function as a local technical advisory committee?

Have you participated in any local survey of available shelter zones, present or prospective?

—Has any such survey been made or proposed in your section?

Regional Representatives are requested to advise also as to— What contacts they have made, and are maintaining, with the Chapter and State Association groups in their regions? Whether they are functioning as sub-chairmen of this Committee?

Whether they are prepared to participate in the new OCD Technical set-up?

Please remember that this is not ordinary committee philanthropy or philandering — we are concerned with factors of life and death. We have had a breathing spell for preparation, but the time has come to put our committee organization in high gear if our profession is to play its part with allied professions.

4. *Acknowledgements* are made where acknowledgements are known to be due. One Committee member — the youngest in point of Committee activity, the oldest in point of Institute service — is known to be canvassing his entire region, man by man. On the other hand, rumor has it that more than one key man has gone AWOL to the Army without arranging for anyone to take over the responsibilities he assumed. We cannot afford to be placed in the embarrassing position of having courtesy mailings returned from non-existent committee men. This may be the Final Roll-Call, if replies are not forthcoming in volume and in detail before September 25th by which time decisions will have to be made about the Committee and the Chairmanship.

HORACE W. PEASLEE, *Chairman,*
AIA Committee on Civilian Protection.

Address: 1234—19th Street, NW Washington, D. C.

Metropolitan New York

As Chairman of the Metropolitan Area Division of our Association's Civilian Protection Committee, I should like to render the following report:

Immediately upon notification by the President the membership of this Committee was assembled by John Briggs.

I had the distinction of being elected Chairman of this group and William Cain was elected as Secretary. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Messrs. Paul F. Jagow, Martyn N. Weinstein, Adolph Mertin, Chester A. Cole, Robert Teichman, Geoffrey Platt, Thomas Dunn, William Cain, Paul B. LaVelle, John T. Briggs, for their complete cooperation. All members of the group were most willing to serve, notwithstanding the fact that immediately upon formation we knew that several obstacles would necessarily have to be overcome.

The all important problem that faced us was the fact that various other local committees of architects had been previously formed for, perhaps, the same general purpose or intent. To avoid conflict with the work of other committees in this area it became necessary for us to develop a program of activity which would not in any way interfere or overlap with the others.

Continued on Page 14



Backus, Crane & Love, Architects

THE NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY BUILDING

By FREDERICK C. BACKUS

IT is no longer any news that America's mounting tide of war production has been largely made possible by construction of streamlined plants scientifically designed to co-ordinate and simplify every manufacturing operation which goes into the finished product.

In the new headquarters building recently completed for National Gypsum Company in Buffalo, N. Y. functional design has been used in the same manner to expedite the management operations and office routine which are also essential to a company's war production.

Completed in April, National's new office building serves as a mechanical nerve center to provide perfect control and coordination of the company's far-flung activities through its 21 manufacturing plants, now largely engaged on war orders. Direction of all phases of the company's operations—research, production, finance, and distribution is concentrated under the single roof.

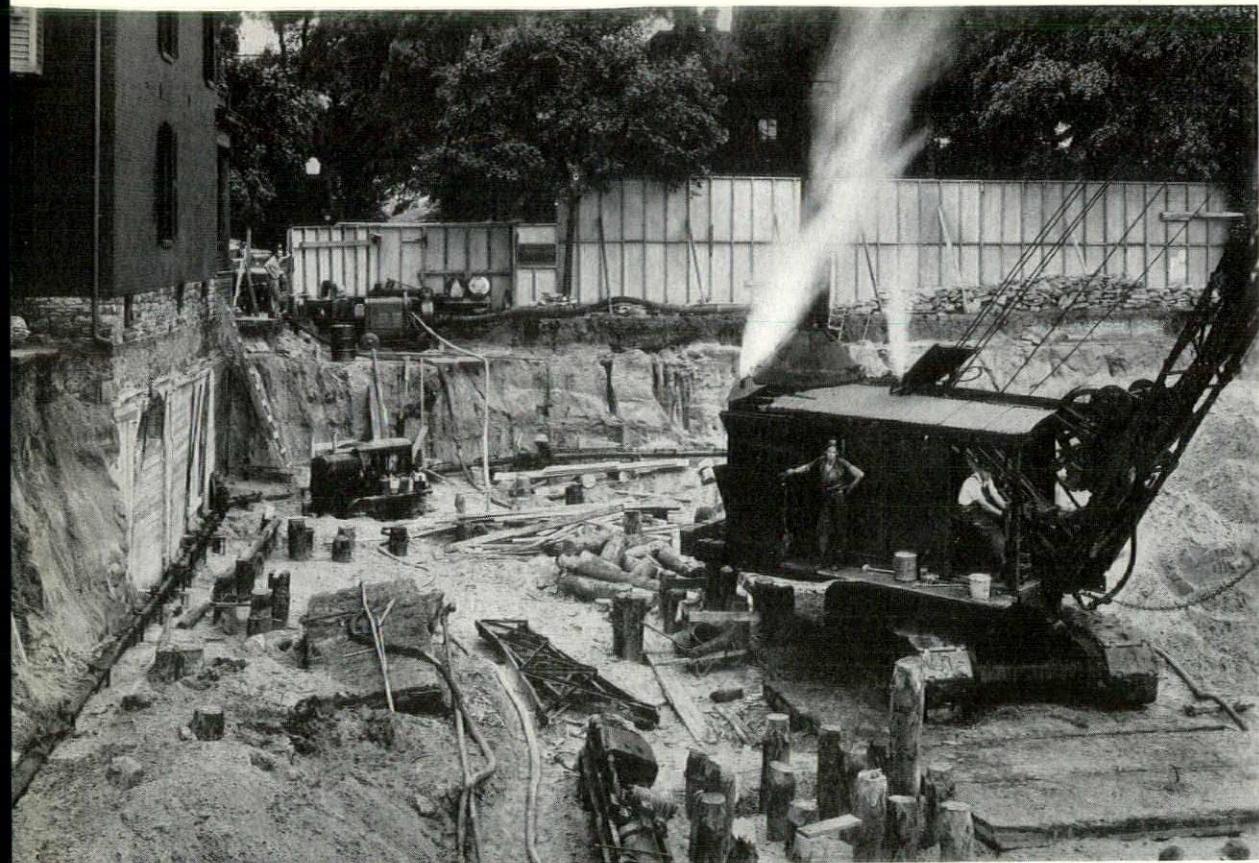
In planning and building the structure, National Gypsum drew upon its unique experience and extensive research facilities as a leader in the building industry, specializing in wall and ceiling products. The company has created in this structure an ideal office building, where every appointment and feature

is functional and where the newest in materials and ideas are combined to provide the perfect environment for utmost employee efficiency and comfort.

With the help of Backus, Crane and Love, architects; George W. Walker, Inc., builders; and John Ullmann, Jr., decorator; National Gypsum has achieved a building which may well be taken as the pattern for the office structure of the future. The extensive landscape work, designed and engineered by Wm. E. Harries, Landscape Architect, will come into its own after a full season's growth, but is not illustrated in this issue.

The building site chosen by the men of National Gypsum rests squarely over an almost forgotten creek that the growing city relegated to underground darkness many years ago. Altho subdued, this creek has run its cheerful course thru sandy sub-strata in approximately its original neighborhood ever since, reaching Lake Erie as of old, without reappearing.

Test borings and a six-foot square test pit told the architects and their engineering counsel, A. Stuart Collins, all they wanted to know about this creek and the sand thru which it coursed. Fifty feet down was bed rock. On the rock lay a burden of hard-pan earth which in turn supported the sandy



Basement excavation through an underground stream.

creek bed. About six feet of familiar top soil conditions existed over this. The old Calvary Church had rested its massive stone pylons shallowly in this six-foot crust.

One of the most essential requirements for the new headquarters building was its basement. And since the streamlining of the various elements making up the building required the elimination of all unnecessary steps, the first floor level and the sidewalk must coincide, thus forcing the entire basement underneath the ground.

How the engineers overcame the difficulties of building their foundations into this unusual situation has interested all those who were familiar with the conditions.

A series of pipes with perforated extremities, called "well-points" were sunk entirely around the area to be excavated. These well points were connected to a larger pipe and powerful pumps drew out the water faster than the stream supplied it. This dried up the sand and made it possible to put machines on it to do the work of excavating. From the bottom thus reached, many wood piles were driven thru the hard-pan to rock, or to a point where the hard-pan refused to let them be driven further.

On these piles was then rested the massive concrete floor slab and thick walls to repel the water. When all was ready and the concrete floors and walls were securely waterproofed, the pumps were stopped. After two months of continuous pumping the water was permitted to regain its normal level. The walls and floor were designed to receive the weight of the building and also the upward thrust of the water pressure. The strength required for the building weight would not serve to resist the water, so the floor design presented a complex problem. At some points four and one-half feet thick, this floor was poured in one continuous 48-hour operation. The concrete engaged a massive mat of heavy reinforcement bars throughout the entire area.

The building is a three-story structure of strikingly modern design, with a functional appearance which is outer evidence

of its inner character. The facade is executed in buff limestone, dark red granite trimmings, glass blocks and bronze ornamentation. Width of the building is 125 feet, with a depth of 100 feet, providing a floor space of 30,000 square-feet. Wall and ceiling elements from National's line of 150 related wall and ceiling products are employed. Light, air and sound conditioning are provided by built-in equipment, embodying the latest refinements, and forming part of the basic design.

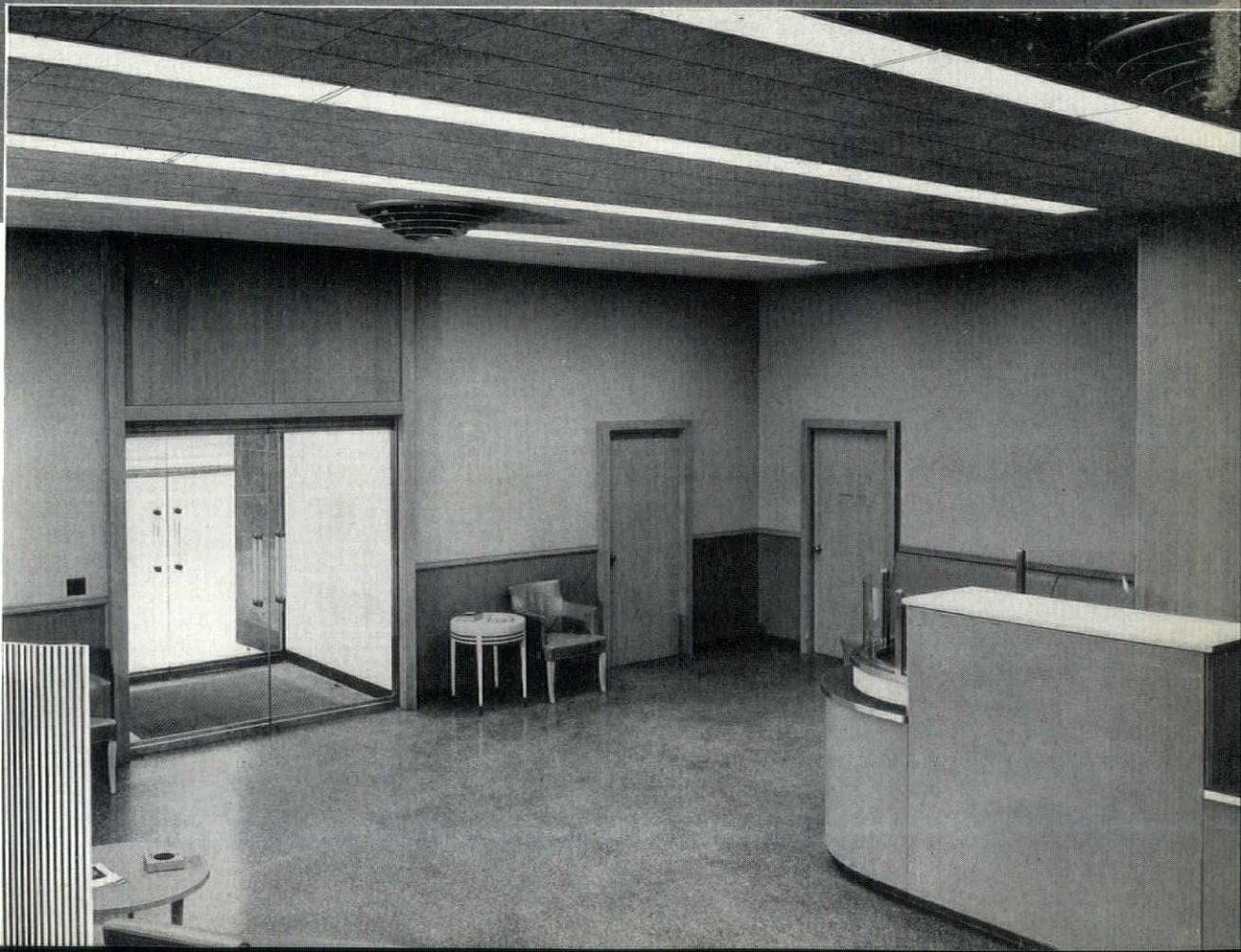
Whether it's 3° below outside, or a sultry 92°, the newest type of air-conditioning automatically maintains the right temperature and relative humidity within the building, and ventilates it with a complete change of clean, filtered air every 5 to 7 minutes. Temperature in different rooms can be controlled to suit the desires of the occupants by individual thermostats in 160 separate zones throughout the building.

An important part of the air-conditioning plan is efficient insulation for the building itself. In addition to Gold Bond fibre insulation board on the roof, the air space in all exterior walls has been filled with Gold Bond Rock Wool. The advantages in economical operation of air conditioning when this low-cost material is used can be clearly seen when you realize that the same wall construction would lose approximately 200% more heat per square foot if the rock wool was omitted.

Noise in this general office is effectively controlled by Gold Bond Acoustimetal ceilings, a fireproof, sanitary, durable, easily maintained material that has an official sound absorption rating of 99% at 512 cycles. In rooms where special equipment magnifies the sound control problem, such as the Wire and Main Transcribing rooms, walls and ceilings have been treated with Gold Bond perforated asbestos panels, backed by absorbent rock wool blankets. In private offices and other rooms without unusually difficult noise conditions, quiet has been assured by installing durable, low-cost ceilings of Gold Bond Acoustex and Econacoustic.



The display room and main staircase from the reception lobby.



Reception lobby view from stairway as shown in picture above.



Typical General office space. Note concealed fluorescent lighting.

Lighting is provided by streamlined fluorescent fixtures installed flush with the ceiling surfaces. Every feature of a room—size, type of ceiling, color and contour of wall, number and location of occupants, etc.,—was carefully considered by lighting engineers. The result is lighting designed to deliver 50 foot candles of daylight to every occupant of this general office room—more than 2½ times as efficient as the average fine office of a decade ago. In many rooms in the building Gold Bond Sunflex paint has been used on walls and ceilings to help provide this finer lighting at lower cost, because this paint reflects up to 90% of light without glare.

The building has many unique features. Outstanding among them is a display room on the main floor, designed by Don Hatch, New York architect and specialist in merchandise exhibits. Here, the architect, builder, lumber dealer, or man-on-the-street can see the newest construction methods demonstrated and examine the latest developments from the busy

research laboratories of National Gypsum Company.

One of the most interesting features of the room is a five-minute slide film in color which traces the growth of National from a struggling local concern operating a single mill in 1926 to an international organization serving 10,000 dealers.

At the left of the room as you enter is a large display rack containing 45 different panels each about 2 feet square. Each of these panels is a sample of one of the 150 different Gold Bond wall and ceiling products, and many of them show their combination use with other building materials.

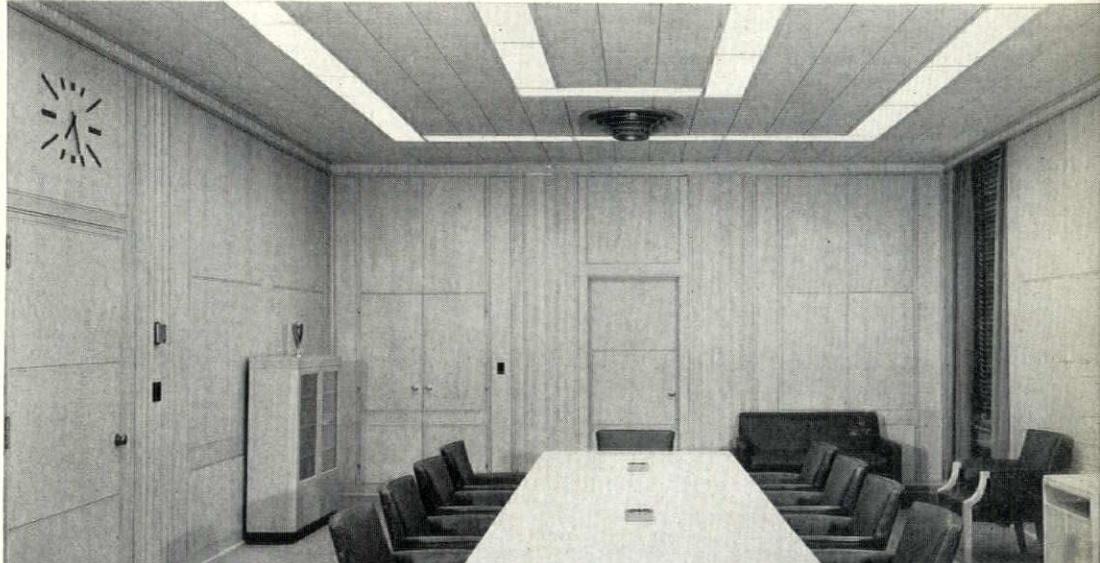
To the right of this display case, extending around the south and west walls of the room, is a series of novel three-dimensional displays exhibiting Gold Bond's contributions to eight basic industries . . . plaster, lime, metal, paint, wallboard, insulation board, rockwool, and sound control.

Another unusual feature is a "puttering lab" where employees can try their hand at developing new products and methods. This is wholly distinct from the company's actual research laboratories.

National Gypsum's new headquarters were originally planned as the culmination of a program of peacetime expansion launched by Melvin H. Baker 8 years ago. It was rushed to completion in ten months in order to expedite execution of war orders upon which the company is now engaged. A by-product of the building as it is constructed, is an unusual basement design equipped to serve as an air raid shelter if the necessity should arise. With three concrete and steel floor slabs above as well as a roof of the same construction, this basement has its own air conditioning, underground electric

service, men's and women's toilets and a kitchen. There are no windows, as the basement floor is eight feet below the water level of an underground stream.

During the last eight years National Gypsum has absorbed ten other companies. Its products include, besides gypsum plaster, wallboards, metal lath, paint, insulation board, rock-wool and sound control material. These are distributed coast to coast through 10,000 dealers. Wherever a concern is consolidated into National, the policy is to move the consolidated company's headquarters staff into the Buffalo home office. There is ample room on the property to meet future expansion needs. Additional office floor space can be constructed to tie into the present building perfectly without a single hour's interruption to the work of the office.



Directors' room, furnished in pickled leather.



*The office of the President.
Pickled oak walls and desk
with leather chairs.*

**CONTRACTORS, SUB CONTRACTORS AND MATERIALMEN
WHO BUILT THE NATIONAL GYPSUM CO. BUILDING**

General Contractor

GEORGE W. WALKER, Inc.

770 Elmwood Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Lathing and Plastering

FRED SEITZ, Inc.

54 Alpine Place

Buffalo, N. Y.

Structural Waterproofing

E. H. WOOD

505 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Vault Doors and Safes

CONDON SAFE COMPANY

185 Norwood Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Tile - Terrazzo - Marble

TIEDE-ZOELLER TILE CORP.

2227 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Rubber Tile - Linoleum - Flexwood Carpet

HODDICK & TAYLOR, Inc.

71 W. Eagle St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Structural Steel

BUFFALO STRUCTURAL STEEL CORP.

166 Dart St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Painting

Empire State Painting & Decorating Co.

298 Hinman Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Heating and Air Conditioning

JOSEPH DAVIS

70 W. Chippewa St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Lumber and Millwork

MONTGOMERY - MALLUE, Inc.

Court and Wilkeson Sts.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Ready Mixed CONCRETE

STONE-MIX CONCRETE CORP.

Ft. of Katharine St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

ELEVATORS

*Passenger, Freight,
Dumbwaiters*

WARSAW ELEVATOR CO.

64 Delaware Ave.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Inspection and Tests

Geo. S. Hallenbeck - Insp. & Test. Lab.

56-62 Pearl St. cor. Seneca Buffalo, N. Y.

Steel Erectors

SCHIEVE CONSTRUCTION CO.

38 Parkridge Ave. Buffalo, N. Y.

Glass and Glazing-Thermopane & Tuflex Glass Doors

Niagara Frontier Glass Co., Inc.

258 Shumway St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Electrical Installation

Beacon Elect. Eng. & Const. Co., Inc.

83 Ellicott St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Sheet Metal Workers

H. J. OTTEN SHEET METAL WORKS

825-829 East Ferry St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Plumbing and Heating Supplies

W. A. CASE & SON MFG. CO.

31 Main St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Mason Materials

BRAY BROTHERS, INC.

Foot of Albany St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Builders Hardware

WEED & CO.

95 Swan St. Buffalo, N. Y.

Draftless Air Distribution

ANEMOSTAT CORP'N of AMERICA

10 East 39th St. New York City

Automatic Temperature Regulation

JOHNSON SERVICE COMPANY

503 Franklin St.

Buffalo, N. Y.

WASHINGTON NEWS

Continued from Page 4

Specifically, for the present, as examples:—

- (a) The Bureau of Yards and Docks staff is filled except for a few possible construction supervisors overseas.
- (b) Naval camouflage is filled.
- (c) Army camouflage is filled.
- (d) The Maritime Commission has a number of positions which could be filled by architects, but they are under Civil Service regulations and compensation is from \$3200 down.
- (e) Red Cross—has some positions as supervisors of overseas stations at small salaries.
- (f) The Area Engineer, Camp Lee, Virginia, needs draftsmen; salaries \$3,000 or more, depending on experience.
- (g) The National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel, formerly under the National Resources Planning Board, is now under the War Manpower Commission. Those architects (and draftsmen) who have not filled out the N.R.S.S.P. Form should do so at once; this may become very important; stress your administrative abilities, breadth of experience, adaptability. Address: James C. O'Brien, Executive Director, National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel, 1006 U St., N.W., Washington, D. C. This is not the A.I.A. roster.

3. Critical Materials

Some apparently serious criticism of architects and engineers has come to us from several sources to the effect that restrictive orders are not being observed as literally as the situation demands, and that designers sometimes seem unwilling to accept the crudity of design required for temporary construction. The Army and Navy officials are very pleasant and cooperative about it; realize that they themselves have been criticized for spendthrift specifications in the recent past; realize that it is difficult to suddenly change all of our normal thinking into terms of crude design and unusual materials; realize the inevitable time-lag between design and approval, or construction; but beg this office to use every effort to make the architects and engineers realize that the shortages are serious, the restrictions mean what they say, that any individual's feeling that he should be allowed to have "just this little bit" of a critical material adds up with others to considerable bulk which does not exist; and to urge the designer to use his vaunted imagination and ingenuity to eliminate elaboration of design and materials already restricted, and to anticipate further probable restrictions by the use of every possible substitute.

The Army and Navy Munitions Board, which is the court of

last resort in such matters, has been bothered by having to adjudicate requests for critical materials which should have been stopped at source. The architects do not contribute to an impression of efficiency or of useful contribution to the war effort by failing to observe these admonitions.

4. Competitive Bidding

There have been instances of architects being invited to bid competitively against each other, on the basis of lump sum fees, on work originating from F. W. A. and from the Army District Engineer Offices. We have interviewed both agencies on this subject and it does not seem to be a consciously established national policy, but rather the activity of local branches. When such matters appear, we request that the Chapters and State Associations immediately take them up in a friendly way with the local District Engineer and with the local District Federal Works Officer, reporting to this office if any further assistance is needed.

5. Post-War Planning

We had a very illuminating conference with General Fleming, Administrator of the Federal Works Agency. He expressed himself as anxious, in spite of the recent abolishment of the Federal Work Reserve, to continue with the assembly of information on desirable post-war projects in the hope that his agency may continue to be useful in coordinating the activities of non-Federal organizations. It was pointed out that the City and the State of New York, and possibly other similar local governments, have appropriated funds for the actual preparation of drawings and specifications of future projects and it is hoped that other such agencies and many public and private institutions, such as universities, hospitals and the like, may be persuaded to appropriate similar funds for similar purposes.

The National Resources Planning Board continues to be active and The Producers' Council, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and others are vitally interested in this subject. At the moment, it does not seem to be a propitious time to urge such matters at the Capitol, as the war situation is too cloudy, but Chapters and State Associations are urged to give active thought to this subject and to carry on educational campaigns in their localities to bring this line of thought before public and private organizations.

This office will have something to say, at a later date, as to the terms of compensation for services offered on city, state and Federal work of this character.

D. K. ESTE FISHER, JR.
Washington Representative, A.I.A.

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Committee Reports

Continued from Page 6

CIVILIAN PROTECTION

Metropolitan New York

(Continued)

It was finally decided that the function of this Committee would be to offer expert advice based on technical knowledge to the public. This advice was to be given without cost and with particular reference to the problem of air raid protection in air raid shelters.

In order to follow through with such a program I immediately communicated with the various borough and county officials within this area to obtain their reaction. Many favorable replies were received, but in some cases the officials referred to the local committees of architects, which had previously been formed.

In order to carry on the program it was felt that architects were to be assigned to various districts within this area, preferably in their own districts, where they would be in attendance at stated periods, at some local building, so that the public could avail itself of the service of the architect in connection with air raid protection and air raid shelters by simply presenting its problem to a designated location for discussion with the architect.

Notwithstanding the fact that every endeavor was made to avoid interference with previously formed committees, it was definitely found that our program could not properly go forward. As an example, prior to our formation the architects within the City of New York were requested to co-operate with the Department of Housing and Buildings of the City of New York. Through this medium they were to serve as expert advisers to the various police precinct commanders, as lecturers to air raid wardens, etc. All this was going on during the period within which our Committee decided to develop a program.

In the final analysis and although there were four complete and lengthy sessions it was decided that more could be accomplished in this direction to benefit both the public and architectural profession by offering our services through the City Departments. All this was done and I dare say every architect within the area offered his services, attended lectures and performed other various tasks, so that we would not be left out in the cold.

It is quite unfortunate that all of the above voluntary work produced no results, even within the City of New York, so that at this moment I know of no place within the Civilian Protection set-up within this area, where the architect has his place.

May I suggest that all the architects, who are available immediately, offer their services unqualifiedly to their local volunteer Civilian Defense Organization, this naturally would also apply to every architect within any community in the State of New York.

SIDNEY L. STRAUSS,
Chairman.

Binghamton and Ithaca

In accordance with your letter to all Committee Chairmen dated August 25th, I am reporting as a member of the Committee on Civilian Protection representing Binghamton (and Ithaca).

Except for looking through the material received from Peaslee's Committee in Washington and certain other material received from other sources, I have done nothing in the formal work of this Committee.

Here in Binghamton two of us registered architects are members of a committee appointed by the Director of Civilian Defense for Binghamton to examine buildings and recommend appropriate areas and the human capacity thereof for air raid shelters. Furthermore, all of the practicing architects in the city are known to be available in the service of the Director for any appropriate work.

This has seemed to me the extent of effective and sensible service so far as the local architects are concerned.

The same general scope of activity is being enjoyed in by the few architects remaining in Ithaca. This report is entirely unsatisfactory as a report from a Committee Chairman. If you wish to appoint anybody else in my place, there will be no hard feelings.

GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS,
Chairman.

Public Works

Your Committee for Greater Participation in Public Work has not held a meeting this summer.

Since I have received your notice to the various Committee Chairmen to submit a report on or before the tenth of this month, I have tried to get in touch with the local members, but have been unsuccessful in reaching them except for one man. I, therefore, find that it will be impossible to submit a detailed report.

To the best of my knowledge, the legislative committees appointed by the Governor have not met, and in view of the war conditions and the coming election, which may change the picture in Albany, I feel that perhaps it would be wiser not to do anything until after election.

ADOLPH GOLDBERG,
Chairman.

Examination to Practice

On returning to the office after a few days' vacation, I find your letter of August 25th—To All Committee Chairmen—informing me that you would appreciate a report from the Committee on Examinations to Practice on or before September 10th.

I am sorry to be so late in answering this, but circumstances did not permit otherwise. As you know, from previous correspondence, the Committee on Examinations to Practice has been inactive for the past two years; its only activity having been to direct the exhibition of ten or twelve drawings which had been chosen by the State Board and which were circulated throughout the State and in all the schools of Architecture in New York.

I have taken the responsibility of handling this exhibit for the past three years, and now suggest that the direction be taken over by someone else or that it be handled by the New York office of the State Association of Architects. I also suggest that for the coming year, arrangements for the exhibit be made at an earlier date, and that some synopsis be attached to the drawings explaining the opinions of the Board.

I hope that this letter will serve in lieu of a more formal report from the Committee on Examinations to Practice.

LEOPOLD ARNAUD,
Chairmen.

The Place of The Light Construction Industry in The Post-War Economy

Reprint from Michigan Society of Architects Bulletin

Mr. Arthur A. Hood, director of dealer relations for the Johns-Mansville Corp., has prepared a brochure on New Career Opportunities in the Building Industry, for high school graduates planning to enter college.

The author makes the point that a great opportunity offers itself to the architects and others in our industry, as well as to the colleges and universities.

Mr. George J. Haas, A.I.A., sales manager of Stran-Steel Division, has furnished us with a copy of the booklet, together with some suggestions of his own as to how the architects, producers and schools can combine to put such a program into effect. First, write Mr. Hood at 22 E. 40th St., New York City, for a copy of the booklet. He will be glad to send a copy free.

In a foreword, Mr. Hood states:

"Educators have frequently asked the question, 'Why hasn't the building industry developed a training program adequate to its needs?' The answer is to be found in the structure of the industry itself. A look at the definition of the building industry on page six will illumine this point. The building industry is made up of 100 or more branch industries—none of which has a dominating part of the whole. It is the most heterogeneous of all industries. The situation is further complicated by the fact that building projects are so bulky that they must be manufactured locally, usually on the site where the building is to stand."

"In most other industries a few well trained minds can organize, integrate and coordinate the production forces at a point of centralized manufacture. The distributive organization too can customarily be managed from the same central point.

"While just a few men with such organizing ability are needed in the average industry, the building industry needs them by the thousands because of its almost total decentralization and diversification.

"The educational problem in the building industry is further complicated by the complexity of its products and services. A new home, for example, has 30,000 parts contributed to by a hundred industries and fitted together on the site by a score of different types of labor.

"The problem of building an adequate program of study to provide educationally for the varied career opportunities in the building industry is as involved as the field of agriculture or any one of the professions.

"Housing is concerned with environment and environment embraces every phase of living.

"Preparation for careers in the shelter industries therefore would call for studies in fields as wide apart as aesthetic design and sewage disposal, as concrete mixing and the psychology of human relations.

"*The work creator just mentioned needs a detailed knowledge of the fifty subjects listed on the next page in order adequately to serve the public.*"

George Haas adds the following comments:

"This will amplify my own statements to you regarding the need for more embracing education in the Light Construction Field as compared with such specialized courses as civil engineering or metallurgy or forestry. A general and more inclusive course, though one less specialized than those offered in the professions, would, it seems to me, be of tremendous value to the graduate, who might fill any one of a hundred jobs from abstract and title writer through banker-mortgager, lumber dealer, lumber to contract writer, on to the many branches of steel manufacturers to wall board and wood preserving."

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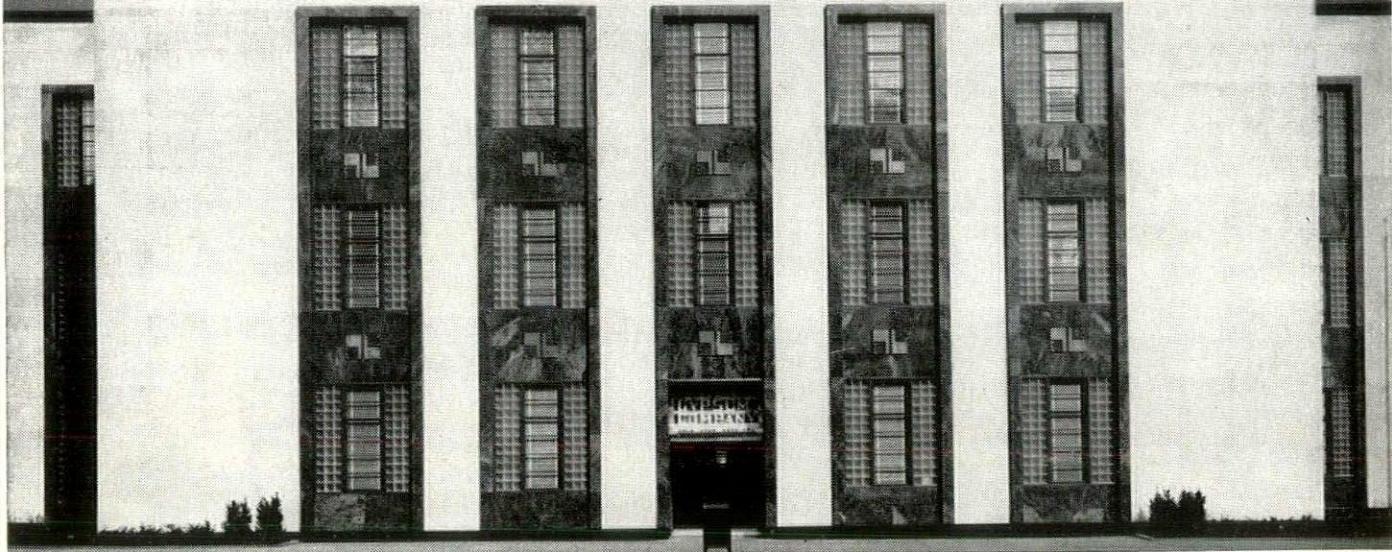
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